[Mr. V. Subba Aiyar.]

PRESIDENT: Mr. Subba Aiyar claims notice of that question.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased at least to publish those portions of the speeches which are considered to be objectionable and place copies on the table?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The Government do not think it necessary to do so.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): May I know why?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The Government are not bound to state the reasons.

PRESIDENT: He must have notice. The speeches must be read.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): Are the Government aware that, when Mr. Aiyappan was making a speech at Vaikam, Mr. Pitchu Aiyangar, the Assistant Superintendent of Police, interfered and asked Mr. Aiyappan not to refer to his name during the course of the speech?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I claim notice.

Alleged Assault by the Police on Satyagrahis at Vaikam.

58. MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): (*a*) Are the Government aware that the Police at Vaikam assaulted *Satyagrahis* on two days about the 8th Mithunam, 1099, kicking and fisting and knocking them down continuously for hours together?

(*b*) Is it true that Mr. Pitchu Aiyangar, the Assistant Superintendent of Police, was at the spot when this assault was going on?

(*c*) Was not the Ag. Commissioner of Police at Vaikam, with a host of other Police officers, including Mr. B. Narayana Pillai, the Ag. Superintendent of Police, Quilon, during these days?

(*d*) Have the Government instituted any enquiry in respect of this conduct of the Police at Vaikam?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*):

(*a*) The member is referred to the answer to Mr. Joseph Panjikaran's question.

(*b*) Mr. Pitchu Aiyangar was present when the *charkas* were seized.

(*c*) The Ag. Police Commissioner was camping at Vaikam from the 7th to the 10th Mithunam, 1099. Mr. B. Narayana Pillai, Ag. District Superintendent of Police, Quilon, was at Vaikam for a few hours on the 7th Mithunam on business unconnected with Vaikam *Satyagraha*.

(*d*) Under instructions from Government, the District Magistrate held an enquiry and his report has already been published as a Press Communiqué.

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MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): Are the Government aware that several respectable people were reported to be present at the time when the Police were assaulting the volunteers at Vaikam?

PRESIDENT: Reported?

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): Yes, in the newspapers.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): What is the question, please?

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): Are the Government aware that there were reports in the newspapers that several respectable persons were present at the time when the Police were assaulting the volunteers on the 7th and the 8th Mithunam?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): It might be that some newspapers have referred to it. But the Government have no specific information about it.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): Are the Government aware that one of the persons present was the representative of the Associated Press of India?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The Government are not aware.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): Are the Government aware that the reference made in the District Magistrate's report to Government has been questioned by that press representative, that he challenged the District Magistrate to name any one item in which he had gone wrong, and that the District Magistrate refused to accept the challenge?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Unless anything is brought to the notice of Government by any person aggrieved, it is not possible for them to take any action.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): My point is that the Government are now depending upon the report of the District Magistrate. The District Magistrate himself refused to accept the challenge and name the specific items.

PRESIDENT: Government are not aware of that and they want notice of that.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): The correspondence between the Press representative and the District Magistrate is published in the papers.

PRESIDENT: It is not referred to in the Press Communiqué.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): I want to know whether the Government are aware of such correspondence going on between the Associated Press representative and the District Magistrate.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Unless the attention of the Government is specifically drawn to it by somebody, it is not possible for the Government to know anything about it.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): I am drawing their attention to this.

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[Mr. V. Subba Aiyar.]

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The Government are not aware of it.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to make an enquiry about this correspondence between the representative of the Associated Press and the District Magistrate of Kottayam?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): If there is any necessity for it, they will make enquiries.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): The necessity is clear.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Subba Aiyar, you may say that the Government will consider.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): That will be quite enough.

Are the Government aware that the District Magistrate did not make any enquiry about this occurrence in the *Satyagraha* camp and did not ask even a single volunteer or any authority connected with the *Satyagraha* function there?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I have already stated that the District Magistrate made an enquiry. As to the nature of the enquiry, Government have no information.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to make an enquiry with respect to the respectable persons who were there when the alleged assault on the *Satyagrahis* was going on?

PRESIDENT: Government should know who those persons were.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): For instance, I have mentioned the representative of the Associated Press. Is it not open to any particular person to write to the papers?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): How can any action be taken on everything stated in the papers. If any serious allegation has to be made, it must be made by somebody to the Government and only then will it be possible for the Government to take action.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): I take the responsibility now.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The member might have brought this to the notice of Government and given information as to the responsible persons who were present, and Government would have instituted an enquiry.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): I am prepared to give the names.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): If the member writes to Government stating the allegations, they may take action in the matter.

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